BOOK NOTICE

A Bibliography of the Homoptera (Auchenorhyncha). By Zeno Payne Metcalf, N. C. State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina. n.d. [1945], n.p. [Raleigh, N. C.]. $10\frac{1}{2} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$ inches, Vol. I, 886 p., Vol. II, 186 p. Cloth, $7.50 net, postage 24 cents.

Although the accumulated knowledge of ages is to be found in books and papers, students are lost in an ocean of literature until the repositories of this knowledge are made known to them by bibliographies. I am always glad to see a good bibliography, especially of a subject in which I am interested, and it is always a relief to know that I have been saved an enormous amount of preliminary work. Bibliographers never receive all the credit that is due them and we are apt to use the results of their knowledge and industry, without gratitude.

This new bibliography of the suborder Homoptera, series Auchenorhyncha which includes the superfamilies Fulgoroidea and Cicadoidea is an impressive work in two volumes. In the first volume the authors are listed alphabetically and their papers are listed chronologically, with titles, sources and dates of publication. This volume includes approximately 8,000 titles which appeared in 1,000 separate journals and in over 900 books, all in various languages. All titles up to June 1, 1942 are included. Where the title of the paper is not indicative of its contents, a brief note supplies this deficiency and serves as a guide in determining its value for a particular purpose. Volume II consists of a list of the periodicals, their abbreviations and complete titles, with places of publication, and a highly useful topical index, which is general, taxonomic and geographic, thereby enabling the student to find the topic in which he is interested.

In the Introduction, Dr. Metcalf states that the work has been in preparation during his spare time, for more than 30 years, and from the magnitude of the finished product, this may be readily understood. There are some who take the position that a bibliography should be all inclusive and list everything that has been written, even if it is a repetition of previous publications. This

may be a safe method for bibliographers who are not intimately acquainted with a particular subject, but I am glad to see that in the present work Dr. Metcalf exercised his discrimination and eliminated summaries of other publications, popular articles and works of an ephemeral nature. There is nothing more annoying than investigating long lists of references that yield exactly nothing. Users of this bibliography can depend upon Dr. Metcalf's wisdom and experience in separating the valuable from the worthless.

For many years Dr. Metcalf has specialized on the Homoptera and I am sure that his impressive and authoritative bibliography will receive the praise and recognition that it deserves.—HARRY B. WEISS.